PayScale of Havt aldar Cadre

2768. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rank of Hawaldars in Army is equivalent to the rank of Sargents in Air Force and Petty Officer in Navy;

(b)whether it is also a fact that the pay scales for the ranks of Hawaldars and Sargents are not the same;

(c) if so, the reasons for not fixing pay scales of Hawaldars equivalents to the pay scale of Sargents in Air Force and Navy; and

(d) by when, the decision to rectify this anomaly will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The pay scales of Havaldars have never been the same as that of Sargents and Petfy Officers. Successive Central Pay Commission have maintained a differential and the pay scales of Sargent and Petty Officer have been higher than that of Havaldar on the basis of the level of skills required for the jobs. The differential in their pay scales is not an anomaly.

Upgradation of Stenographers for AFHQ

2769. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE; Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether eligible AFHQ stenographers have not yet been granted second financial upgradation under the ACP Schemes, despite clear orders on the subject;

(b)if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by when necessary orders will be issued in the instant case; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure timely issue of orders in such matters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No stenographers (Steno-D) belonging to AFHQ Stenographer's Service have been found eligible for grant of second financial upgradation under the ACP Scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

Action of Kargil Review Committee Recommendations

2770. DR. Y. LAKSHMl PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the follow-up action on the recommendations of the Subrahmanyam Committee Report on Kargil; and

(b)the strategies drawn up for accurate intelligence gathering of Pak activities on LoC to enable Army to act accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES) : (a) While specific recommendations made by Kargil Review Committee (Subrahmanyam Committee) for acquisition of (a) high altitude UAVs (b) commimication interception equipment, (c) satellite imagery capability of world standards, and (d) development of skills in encryption/decryption have been accepted by the Government, many of its recommendations need to be developed into specific actionable policies and programmes. In a few cases, consultation with and acceptance of the recoimnendations by the State Governments is also required. The Government has in view of the importance and sensitivity of the subject and after careful consideration of these recommendations and other relevant aspects decided that the national security system in its entirety be thoroughly reviewed by a Group of Ministers headed by the Home Minister with Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister as its members.

(b) It would not be in the National interest to divulge details in this regard.

Take over of Praga Tool Limited

2771. DR. Y. LAKSHMl PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers union of the Praga Tool Limited has requested to take back the tmdertaking by the Ministry of Defence from the Ministry of Industry; and

(b)if so, the action proposed in view of past good performance of the PSU supplying its products to Defence sectors only?